

REMARKS

The application includes claims 1-19, 21-29, 31, 33-66, 68, and 70-74 prior to entering this amendment.

The examiner allows claims 9, 21-29, 33-37, 46, 64, and 70-74.

The examiner objects to claims 6, 17-19, 43, and 54-56 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The examiner rejects claims 12-14, 31, 49-51, and 68 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph as failing to comply with the enablement requirement.

The examiner rejects claims 1-5, 10-11, 15 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Berg et al. (U.S. Patent 6,674,713) in view of Osman et al (U.S. 6,791,971).

The examiner rejects claims 7-8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Berg in view of Osman and Dalrymple et al. (U.S. 6,826,272).

The examiner rejects claims 38-42, 47-48, and 52-53 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Berg in view of Osman and Auerbach et al. (*Signaling Backhaul Protocol*, 25 February 1999, IETF Internal Draft).

The examiner rejects claims 44-45 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Berg in view of Osman, Auerbach and Dalrymple.

The examiner rejects claims 57-63 and 65-66 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Berg in view of Auerbach.

The applicants amend claims 12, 15, 16, 49, 52, and 53 to correct certain informalities.

The application remains with claims 1-19, 21-29, 31, 33-66, 68, and 70-74 after entering this amendment.

The applicants add no new matter and request reconsideration.

Allowable Subject Matter

The applicants thank examiner Nguyen for allowing claims 9, 21-29, 33-37, 46, 64, and 70-74 and indicating allowable claims 6, 17-19, 43, and 54-56.

The applicant does not rewrite claims 6, 17-19, 43, and 54-56 in independent form because he believes the independent and intervening claims are allowable. If the examiner finds

otherwise in spite of the arguments presented below, the applicant will rewrite the claims in independent form.

Claim Rejections Under § 112

Claims 12-14, 31, 49-51, and 68 are rejected as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The examiner alleges that support for certain limitation recited in claim 12 cannot be found in the original specification. The limitation in question recites "*multiplexing, at the primary media gateway controller, outbound signaling content destined for the packet-switched call signaling connections terminated by the signaling gateway...*" Support for the limitation, however, can be found in several places in the specification, for example, in lines 6-8, page 15; lines 13-17, page 14 of the original disclosure and also in the summary.

The examiner rejects claims 12-16, and 49-53 as lacking antecedent basis for various terms. The applicants amend the claims to provide antecedent basis where it was unintentionally omitted previously.

Claim Rejections Under § 103

The examiner rejects claims 1-5, 7-8, 10-11, 15-16, 38-42, 44-45, 47-48, 52-53, 57-63, and 65-66 as being obvious over various combinations of Berg in view of several other references including Osman, Dalrymple, and Auerbach.

The present application and Berg were, at the time the invention of the present application was made, commonly owned by Cisco Technology, Inc. The applicants include a statement of common ownership. The statement of common ownership disqualifies Berg as a reference under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). MPEP § 706.02(1)(1)-(3).

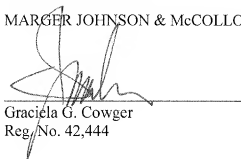
Claims 1-5, 7-8, 10-11, 15-16, 38-42, 44-45, 47-48, 52-53, 57-63, and 65-66 are therefore in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

The applicants request reconsideration and expeditious issuance of all remaining claims. The applicants encourage the examiner to telephone the undersigned at (503) 222-3613 if it appears that an interview would be helpful in advancing the case.

Respectfully submitted,

MARGER JOHNSON & McCOLLOM, P.C.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Graciela G. Cowger', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized with loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Graciela G. Cowger
Reg. No. 42,444

MARGER JOHNSON & McCOLLOM, P.C.
210 SW Morrison Street, Suite 400
Portland, OR 97204
503-222-3613

Customer No. 20575